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Department of State A-43

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06872 01 OF 03 301551Z 1916 BOGOTA 06872 01 OF 03 301551Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 BOGOTA 6872

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E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: SNAR CO
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT OF US-FUNDED NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA - MAY 1972

1. SUMMARY. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THE MONTH OF MAY INCLUDE THE ELECTION OF MISAEL PASTRANA AS THE NEW CONSERVATIVE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA (INAUGURATION WILL BE IN AUGUST); THE SIGNING OF THE HELIVALLE CONTRACT; AND THE GRADUATION/DEPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL AND REPLACEMENT COMPANIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE'S SPECIAL ANTINARCOTICS UNIT (CANP). DURING MAY, THE GOC'S COMBINED ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SEIZED 184 METRIC TONS OF BULK MARIHUANA; 247 KILOS OF COCAINE HCL; AND 35-MILLION DOSAGE UNITS OF METHAQUALONE (QUAALUDE). THEY ALSO DESTROYED 1,500 MARIHUANA PLANTS AND OVER ONE-MILLION COCA PLANTS, AND ELIMINATED 10 COCAINE LABS. NARCOTICS ARRESTS FOR THE MONTH NUMBERED 84. END SUMMARY.

2. NATIONAL POLICE PROJECT - 311001-0109

A. GENERAL: OVERALL CANP STRENGHT HAS INCREASED BY TWO COMPANIES AND THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION/ERADICATION EFFORTS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE (NP) CONTINUE UNABATED. AN AIR FORCE 205 HELICOPTER WAS ASSIGNED TO BARRANQUILLA ON MAY 11 BUT WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME CANP USE BECAUSE IT REMAINED ON STANDBY TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ON MAY 30.
B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: SEVEN CANP COMPANIES (TWO NEW AND FIVE RELIEF) COMPLETED TRAINING AS SCHEDULED ON MAY 15 AND WERE DEPLOYED DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 17, AS DETAILED IN LAST MONTH'S REPORT. EMBASSY ATTENDED GRADUATION CEREMONIES ON MAY 15 AT THE NP TRAINING FACILITY IN ESPINAL, TOLIMA.
C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: PIO/C WORKSHEETS WERE FORWARDED TO INM FOR PROCUREMENT OF FIELD EQUIPMENT (USD 5,600), BULLET-PROOF VESTS (USD 6,200) AND SMALL PARTS AND OUTBOARD MOTORS (USD 129,797). ADDITIONAL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ORDERED FOR THE NP UNDER PIO/C'S 3110-079-6[illegible] ARRIVED IN COUNTRY DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.
D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: THE CANP SEIZED 184 METRIC TONS OF BULK MARIHUANA, 5 KILOS OF COCAINE HCL, 247 KILOS OF COCAINE HCL AND 720 DOSAGE UNITS OF METHAQUALONE. THEY DESTROYED 1,500 MARIHUANA AND [illegible] PLANTS AND DISMANTLED 10 COCA LABS, WHILE MAKING A TOTAL OF 84 ARRESTS. FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR 14 GRANTEES (TWO CANCELLATIONS AND ADDED TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. ON JUNE 5. JOHN CRAWFORD OF THE ESCORT OFFICER

E. PROBLEMS: AIR SUPPORT PROBLEMS SHOULD DISAPPEAR NOW THAT THE NEW LEASE CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED. THE NP NEED ONLY REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE AIR FORCE IN ADVANCE TO GAIN THE USE OF THE HELICOPTERS FOR A LENGHT OF TIME TO BE MUTUALLY DETERMINED.
F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

3. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG) PROJECT - 311001-0104
A. GENERAL: THE COLOMBIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE GENERAL MANAGER OF HELIVALLE SIGNED A NEW CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE THREE HELICOPTERS OF THE OAG'S AIR GROUP. THE CONTRACT IS FUNDED BY PROJECT AGREEMENT REVISION 5. IT WAS SIGNED ON MAY 5 AND A USG CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF 100,000 USD (PESO EQUIVALENT) WAS DELIVERED TO THE OAG ON MAY 7.
B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT AGREEMENT ARE BEING MET.
C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: THE OAG CONDUCTED AN OPERATION IN THE LLANOS FROM MAY 12 THROUGH 19. IT WAS

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06872 02 OF 03 301500Z 1918
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 BOGOTA 6872

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CENTERED IN THE COMISARIA (SPARSELY- POPULATED STATE) OF GUAVIARE. THE THREE HELICOPTERS LOGGED A TOTAL OF 75 HOURS DURING THE OPERATION WHILE THE DAG'S AGENTS MANUALLY DESTROYED ABOUT 125,000 COCA PLANTS AND DISMANTLED 18 LABS. OVER 59 SQUARE METERS (635 SQ FT) OF COCA SEED BEDS WERE ALSO DESTROYED.
D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: ON MAY 16, DAG AGENTS SEIZED 3.5 METRIC TONS OF METHACUALONE, WHICH EQUAL 35 MILLION DOSAGE-UNITS AFTER ADULTERATING AND ENTABLETTING. THE INVESTIGATION WAS COORDINATED BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE DAG'S INVESTIGATORS. THIS RANKS AS ONE OF THE LARGEST METHACUALONE SEIZURES EVER MADE.
E. PROBLEMS: ON MAY 14, DURING THE AFOREMENTIONED OPERATION IN THE LLANOS, ONE OF THE 206L HELICOPTER'S ENGINE CHIP LIGHT CAME ON DURING FLIGHT AND IT MADE A PRECAUTIONARY LANDING IN THE FIRST AVAILABLE CLEARING IN THE JUNGLE. INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE ENGINE WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED. HELIVALLE SENT ITS ONLY SPARE ENGINE FROM PALMIRA (NEAR CALI) TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED ONE. THIS UNFORESEEN EXPENSE WILL CUT INTO THE FUNDS FOR SUPPORTING THE CONTRACT AND WILL LIKELY SHORTEN THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT BY TWO WEEKS OR SO. ANOTHER PROBLEM, WHICH MAY BE RESOLVED SOON, IS HAVING THE NATIONAL POLICE NOTIFY THE DAG IN WRITING WHEN HELICOPTER SUPPORT IS TO BE REQUIRED. MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER TO ELIMINATE THIS PROBLEM WILL TAKE PLACE DURING JUNE.
F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

4. COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE (FAC) PROJECT - 311001-0107
A. GENERAL: ON MAY 6, EMBOFFS MET WITH THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE FAC, WHO INFORMED US THAT ON MAY 12, A BELL 206 WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE FAC'S BASE AT BARRANQUILLA, AND ANOTHER ONE WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE BASE AT APIAY (VILLAVICO) ON JUNE 1. THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THESE HELICOPTERS WILL BE TO PROVIDE AIR SUPPORT FOR THE NP'S SAN COMPANIES IN BOTH AREAS. THE BELL 206 (FAC 2671) FOR BARRANQUILLA WAS IN PLACE ON MAY 11.
B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: OBJECTIVES BEING MET.
C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: IN A MEETING WITH THE FAC'S LOGISTICS COMMANDER, EMBOFFS LEARNED THAT THE 95,000 USD BALANCE IN THE FAC'S EXISTING LOAN (FOR LAUDERDALE) WAS TO BE USED FOR THE REPAIR OF AN LYCOMING TURBINE ENGINE AT AVIALL IN DALLAS. HOWEVER, A FOLLOW-UP TELEPHONE CALL TO AVIALL REVEALED THAT THE COST WOULD BE ABOUT 295,000 USD. WHEN EMBOFFS INFORMED THE FAC'S LOGISTICS COMMANDER OF THIS ESTIMATE HE CANCELLED THE REPAIR. THE 95,000 USD BALANCE WILL NOW BE USED TO PAY FOR THE REPAIR OF TWO HUGHES 500 TH[illegible]

MISSIONS AND ONE ABLESON ENGINE.
D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: THE EMBASSY DID NOT ISSUE ANY PA/C'S FOR THE FAC DURING MAY; HOWEVER, THE FAC REQUESTED TWO ONES BE ISSUED FOR THE PURCHASE OF REFUELING EQUIPMENT COSTING ABOUT 76,000 USD, WHICH CAN BE FINANCED WITH A PORTION OF THE EXCESS FUNDS REMAINING IN PA/C 3740.
E. PROBLEMS: NONE.
F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

5. COLOMBIAN NAVY PROJECT - 311001-0107
A. GENERAL: CONSTRUCTION ON THE PATROL BOAT FOT THE NAVY CONTINUES ON SCHEDULE. MINOR PROBLEMS THAT HAVE SURFACED WILL BE ADDRESSED DURING A JULY VISIT TO THE SHIPYARD BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COLOMBIAN NAVY AND THE NAU.

6. COLOMBIAN ARMY PROJECT - 311001-0107
A. GENERAL: NO CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THIS PROJECT.

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 06872 03 OF 03 302021Z 1922
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UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 3 BOGOTA 6872

7. CUSTOMS - 311001-0105
A. GENERAL: CUSTOMS HAS TAKEN A "WAIT-AND-SEE" ATTITUDE AS TO WHO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL APPOINT TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE CUSTOMS DIRECTORATE. NO NEW CHANGES OR PROGRAMS ARE LIKELY TO BE NITIATED DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.
B. PROGRESS TOWARD OBJECTIVES: COMMO EQUIPMENT FROM PASC 3110-153153 WAS TURNED OVER TO CUSTOMS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN PACE BY THE END OF JULY.
C. PROGRESS IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: NO CHANGE.
D. ACCOMPLISHMENTS: FIVE SEPARATE SEIZURES TOTALLING 15.5 TONS OF MARIHUANA AND EIGHT KILOS OF COCAINE WERE MADE BY CUSTOMS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.
E. PROBLEMS: NONE.
F. FUTURE PROSPECTS: NO CHANGE.

8. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE PROJECT 311001-01111
A. GENERAL: ON MAY 27, EMBOFFS MET WITH MINJUS ANDREADE AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF LEGAL MEDICINE, DR. LICHTENBERGER, AT ANDRADE'S INVITATION. ANDRADE AND LICHTENBERGER QUESTIONED PERCEIVED EMBASSY DELAY ON A DECISION TO REFURBISH THE INSTITUTE'S AMPHITHEATER. THEY REVIEWED THEIR RATIONALE FOR COMPLETING THE PROJECT AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY MOVE ON THE FINANCING. THE DCM ASSURED ANDRADE THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY. A FINAL DECISION WAS NOT MADE DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD.
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